reducing the subsidies they are actually pleasing the IMF and the World Bank. It is not good for the common people in India.

Regarding interest payment, I want to say that interest payment is now 42 per cent of the total non-Plan expenditure, but the Seventh Plan average was only 27 per cent.

Then, the convertibility of the rupee....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Mr. Viduthalai Virumbi, now, at 7.30, we have a statement by the hon. Home Minister. After the statement you can continue.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : We can continue even tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : No, no. We are continuing with the discussion now.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Okay, by all means.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Dinner has been arranged for all the MPs and the staff. Therefore, we can continue with the discussion.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Okay, I will continue afterwards.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Communal Violence in Manipur

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : The communal situation in Manipur has generally been stable. In particular, the relations between the Meitei and the Muslim communities have been harmonious.

However, on 3 May 1993, arising from a minor dispute between two parties over a monetary transaction, there was a sudden outbreak of communal clashes between the two communities in the Lalong Bazar Village of the Thoubal District. The violence spread very quickly to communally sensitive peckets in the Thoubal and Imphal districts.

The State Government took action to contain the violence and the Army was put on alert. Units of Assam Rifles conducted flag marches in the affected areas. State and Central Para-Military Forces were called out and deployed in strength in the affected areas in the Valley. Curfew was imposed in the Thoubal and Imphal districts at 6 P.M. on 3 May. The curfew is continuing.

According to the report received from the State Government, 68 persons have died. 78 persons have suffered grievious injuries and are undergoing treatment in hospital in Imphal.

About 700 women and children from the minority community have been given shelter in local schools and are being provided with food and other necessities

In a night-long operation, 109 anti-social elements have been arrested in two districts. More arrests are being made.

The situation is tense but under control. No fresh cases of violence have been reported today. All aspects of the situation having a bearing on the maintenance o fpublic order in Manipur are receiving continuous attention.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Clarifications when ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Clarifications will be in continuation of this now.

Shri Ram Naresh Yadav not present

Shri Khaleelur Rahman.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): It was decided that it should not be done now and that it would be done tomorrow. Otherwise how can we finish it ? .... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : If there is unanimity, we will have clarifications tomorrow.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It was decided that we would continue with the Budget and that tomorrow we would have clarifications.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Right, then. We will continue with the Budget. Clarifications on the statement will be tomorrow.

Mr. Virumbi, you can continue now. Your party's time is about 20 minutes. You have consumed more than 13 minutes

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप तो बड़े पंचायत है, आप जानते हैं कि 11 बजे से लगातार साढ़े आठ घंटे बैठे हुए हो गए हैं, क्यों न बजट पर बहस कल जारी रखी जाए... (व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : All right. It was agreed among leaders that we would sit a little late to complete it.... (*Interruptions*) You have to tell your leader. You cannot tell the Chair.... (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Please don't challenge your leaders when they are not in the House.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL (Uttar Pradesh) : Why do you put us in trouble ? .... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : This happens. Every time the leaders make a commitment, and then you object to it. We request you not to do so.... (*Interruptions*) No. I always listen to my leader.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : You do, but for once let there be a change.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : At least your leader is there.

SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY : It is better we do it tomorrow.

बॉडेड लेबर क्यों बना रहे हैं .... (व्यवधान)

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 1993-94

(*Contd.*)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Because of full convertibility of the Rupee, export items like food etc., which do not depend upon any import may tap up to nearly Rs. 170 crores this year alone. When we support the exporters to earn more, definitely this full convertibility is going to affect the importers, particularly the people who import raw materials essential for the development of Indian industries. Not only the earnings of importers, but the earnings of the Government of India are going to be affected because of this full convertibility.

Now I come to personal income-tax exemptions. The income-tax exemption limit in 1981 was Rs. 15,000. In 1985, it was Rs. 18,000. In 1990 it was Rs. 22,000 and in 1991-92, it was raised to Rs. 28,000. The real value of Rs. 15,000 today stands at about Rs. 45,000. I would like to inform the House that in Australia a different method is being employed for income-tax exemptions. They have first fixed up the base amount at a tripartite conference. Government, employers and employees sit together and arrive at a base amount. Once that is accepted, the income-tax exemption amount every year is enhanced in relation to the inflation that takes place in Australia. I would request the Government of India to at least wake up now and take 1981 as the base year and Rs. 15,000 as the base income-tax exemption amount. The income-tax exemption amount should be enhanced keeping in